

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 01020 292140Z
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCA-01 PPTE-00 EA-09

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-----130960 292142Z /72

O R 292115Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5448
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

UNCLAS GUAYAQUIL 1020

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, CPAS (INGELSE, KIRBY)

SUBJECT: PRESUMED DEATH OF US CIT

1. CONGEN WAS INFORMED BY ECUADOREAN NAVAL AUTHORITIES ON JUNE 28 THAT YACHT SERENA EN ROUTE FROM SYDNEY AUSTRALIA TO PANAMA CRASHED AND SUNK OFF THE SHORES OF HOOD ISLAND IN THE GALAPAGOS ARCHIPELAGO ON JUNE 23, 1977. SURVIVING AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALANDER CREW MEMBERS REPORT SHIP'S CAPTAIN KIRBY INGELSE (CORRECT SPELLING UNKNOWN) WHOM THEY BELIEVE WAS USCIT, MISSING AND PRESUMED TO HAVE DROWNED AFTER ABANDONING THE SHIP. ECUADOREAN NAVAL AUTHORITIES ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO FIND INGELSE'S BODY BY SEARCHING SHORES OF HOOD ISLAND.

2. PETER EDWARD BERRY, A MEMBER OF THE CREW, EXPLAINED THAT CRASH OCCURRED AT ABOUT 1 A.M., AND THAT HE AND INGELSE WERE CAST INTO OCEAN. BERRY STATED THAT HE MADE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ASSIST INGELSE DURING FOUR HOUR ATTEMPT TO SWIM TO SHORE AND HOLD HIM ABOVE WATER. DURING THE LAST HALF HOUR OF THEIR FIGHT FOR LIFE INGELSE WAS UNCONSCIOUS AND BERRY'S ATTEMPTS TO REVIVE HIM WERE FUTILE. BERRY STATES HE WAS FINALLY FORCED TO ABANDON INGELSE BECAUSE HE WAS IN DANGER OF LOSING HIS OWN LIFE, AND ADDS HE PRESUMED INGELSE TO BE DEAD

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AT THE TIME OF HIS DEPARTURE.

3. INGELSE IS THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE CREW MISSING (OTHER FOUR WERE AUSTRALIANS AND NEW ZEALANDERS). IDENTIFYING DOCUMENTS WERE LOST ON THE SHIP. SURVIVING CREWMEMBERS DESCRIBED KIRBY INGELSE AS MALE CAUCASIAN, HEIGHT 6 FEET 1 INCH; BROWN HAIR; AND ABOUT FIFTY YEARS

OF AGE. THEY ALSO CLAIM INGELSE ONCE STATED HE RESIDED IN DAVIS, MARYLAND WITH HIS WIFE PHYLLIS.

4. MEMBERS OF THE CREW CLAIM THE SHIP WAS OWNED BY GERALD A. PEABODY OF SEATTLE WASHINGTON. MR. PEABODY'S HOME PHONE NUMBER IS BELIEVED TO BE (206) 383 8094. SURVIVORS CLAIM TO HAVE CONTACTED PEABODY AND INFORMED HIM INGELSE PRESUMED DEAD AND OF LOSS OF SHIP.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING INGELSE AS USCIT AND INFORMING NOK. OTHER POSSIBLE SPELLINGS INGELS AND ENGELS SHOULD ALSO BE CHECKED IF UNABLE TO LOCATE ON BASIS ABOVE INFORMATION.

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Message Attributes

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Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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